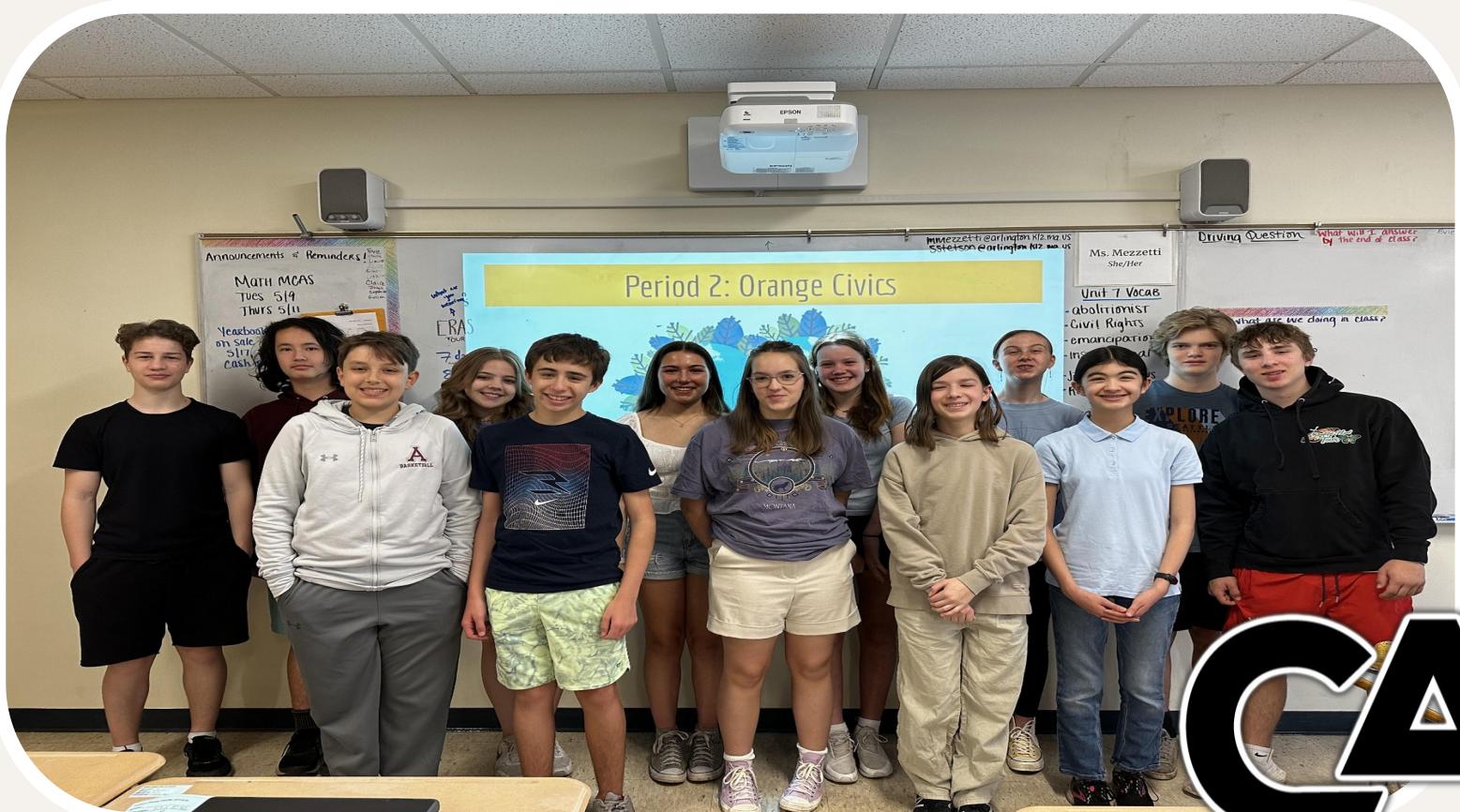


Arlington Restauran t Compostin g

Warrant Article No. 56

By: Alexandra Lay, Summer Schadinger, Eleanor Rockwood, Anne Marie Spilker, Foster Woodberry





CAP

CIVIC ACTION PROJECT

1. Proposal

Proposal:

Pilot a 1-year program, available to Arlington restaurants situated along Massachusetts Avenue, that incentivizes food scrap diversion by subsidizing a set percentage of the monthly cost of curbside composting when serviced through select composting companies at a total cost of \$5,000 dollars to the Town of Arlington.



2a. Environmental Benefits



63 million tons of
food waste
annually in the
US



Only 4% of food
waste is
currently
composted

Waste Incineration

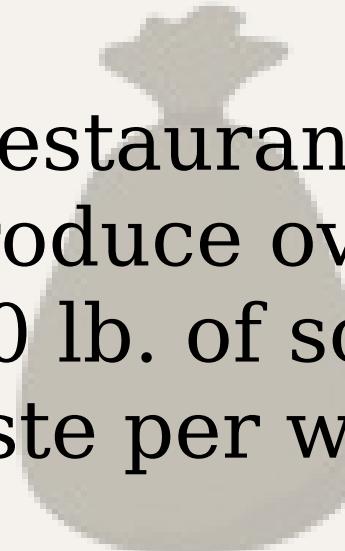
- Emits toxins and pollutants that harm local air quality
- Produces carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, greenhouse gases (GHG)
- Food waste is composed of 70% water, reducing incineration efficiency
 - Increases operation costs, energy, and fuel
 - Increases GHG emissions

Composting:

- Breaks down into non-toxic components
 - Water, carbon dioxide, biomass
 - Global warming potential (GWP) of nitrous oxide is 300 times greater than carbon dioxide
- Advances Arlington's **net-zero by 2050** action plan

*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and
Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)*





Restaurants
produce over
600 lb. of solid
waste per week



90% of
restaurant waste
is compostable

Efficiency of Restaurant Composting

- Large environmental impact due to the high volume of food waste we could divert
- Restaurants are concentrated along Massachusetts Ave.
 - decreases fuel costs and emissions
- Effectively spreads awareness to restaurant employees and customers

2b. Restaurant Benefits

Increased Business



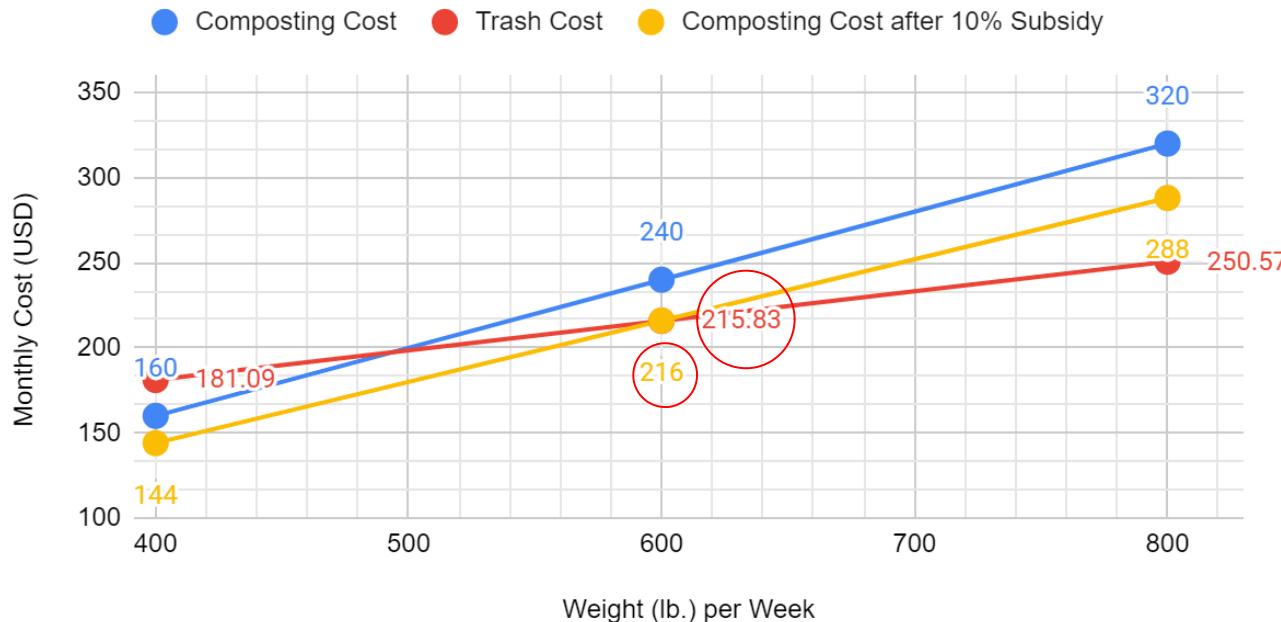
60% of households
prefer dining at
zero-waste
restaurants

- Increases the number of Arlington residents at local restaurants
- Attracts business from neighboring towns

Financial Incentive

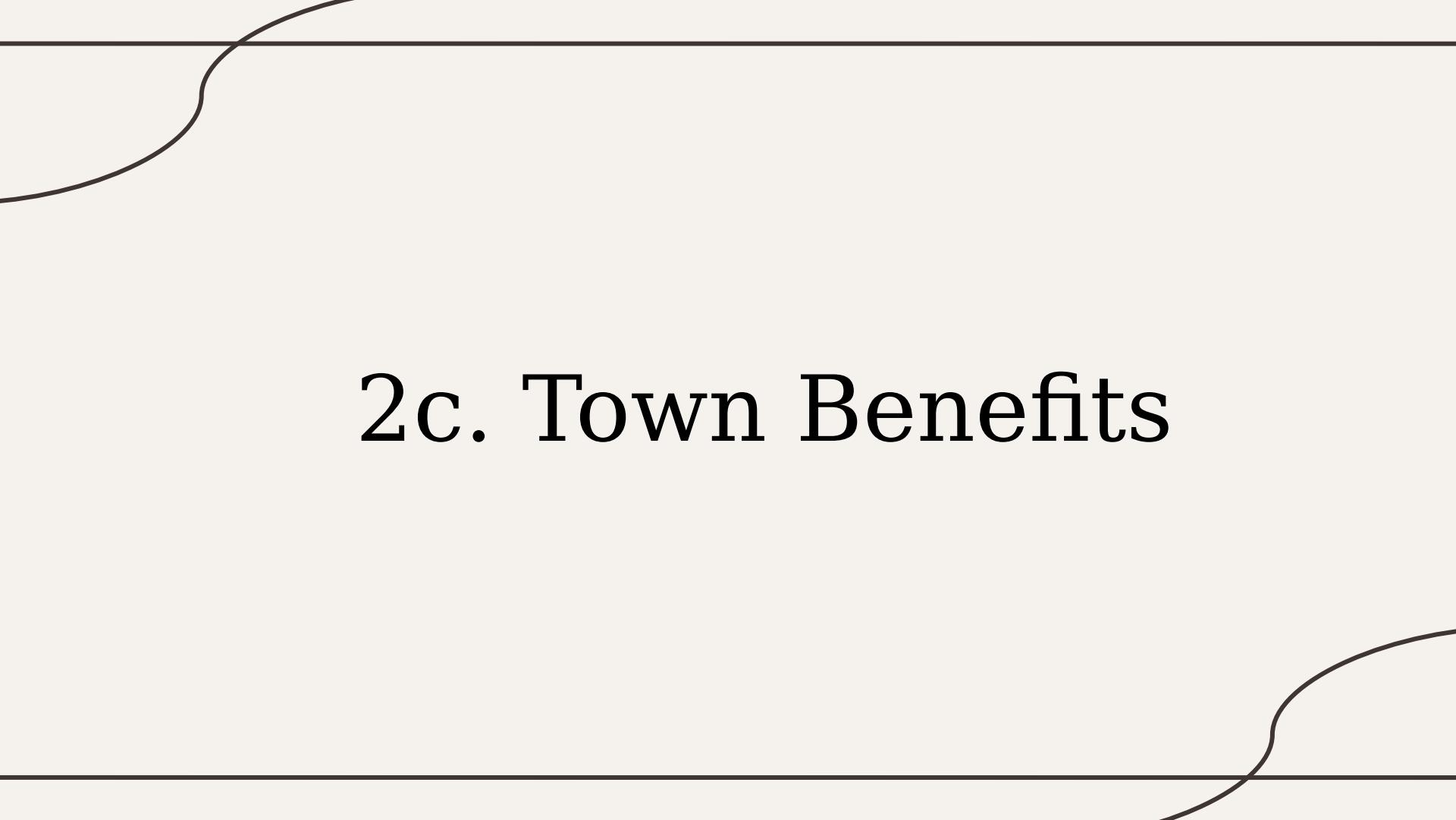
Monthly Composting vs. Trash Cost

Quotes courtesy of Black Earth Composting and Waste Management



● After a 10% subsidy, composting costs equate trash pick-up costs

● Restaurant costs do not increase



2c. Town Benefits

Rodent Control

- Compost bins do not attract rodents at a higher rate than dumpsters or trash bins
- Bins designed with rodent prevention in mind
 - Extra thick plastic, locking lids
 - Washable/easy to clean
 - Effectively traps odor



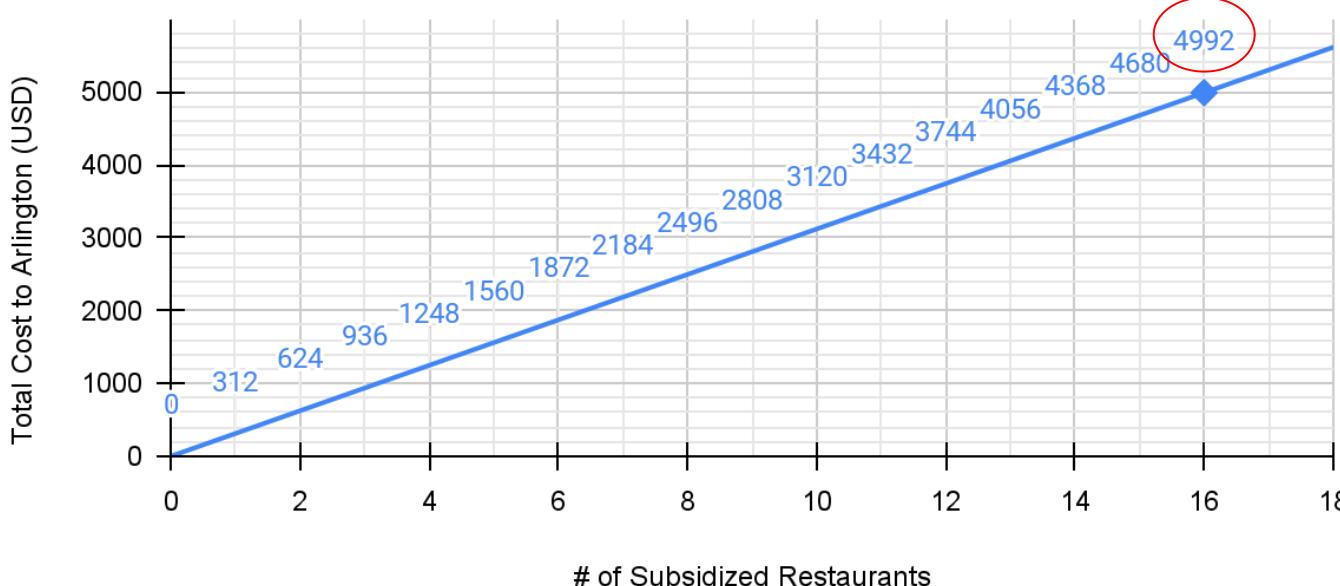


3. Impact

Total Number of Restaurants Engaged

Total Cost to the Town of Arlington vs. # of Subsidized Restaurants

Quote courtesy of Black Earth Compost

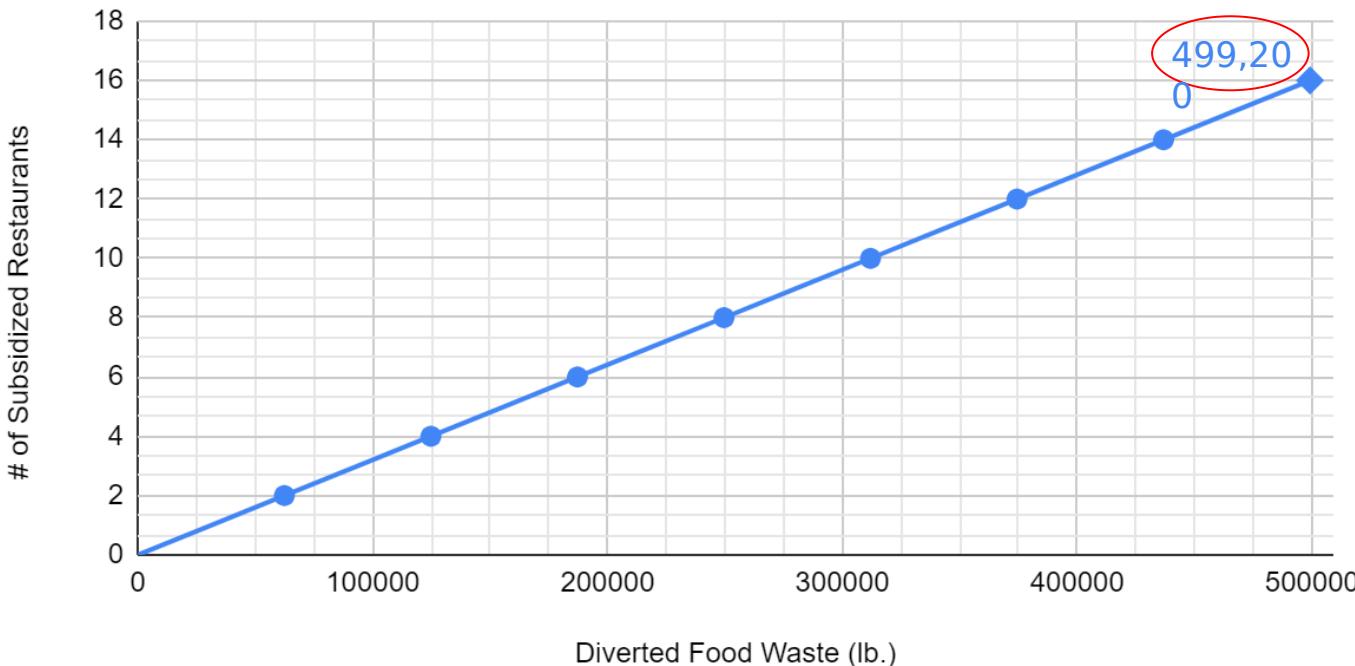


● \$4,992
subsidizes
approx. **16**
restaurants

Amount of Food Waste Diverted

of Subsidized Restaurants vs. Diverted Food Waste (lb.)

Quote courtesy of Black Earth Compost



● Approx.
499,200 lb.
of food waste
diverted over
a 1-year
period

● **\$1 = 100 lb.**
of diverted
food waste!



Thank you!

Please consider voting “yes” on warrant article No. 56